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SEARCH

INTO THE

PROPHECIES.

PART I.

TWO LETTERS

TO THE

RUSSIAN NATION.

"*Can ye not discern the Signs of the Times?*"

MATT. xvi. 3.

C.P.

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CANTERBURY: 1770.

Printed and sold by T. SMITH and SON, at the *General Printing Office:* And may be had at the Pamphlet Shops in LONDON; and of GEORGE CLARKE, No. 2. *Worship Court*, in *Worship-street*.

BRITISH MUSEUM

TO THE

READER.

WHAT is offered here to the Public, was addreſſed to the Ruſſian Nation in two publications in the *Canterbury Journal.*

The firſt letter was ſent to publiſhers that preferred topics ſuited more for childhood than men of underſtanding, which prevented its appearing according to date.

The ſecond was intended to ſupply the place of the firſt, which occaſions a degree of ſameneſs in both.

It makes its preſent appearance out of the common form, being rejected by the ſeveral London Bookſellers it was offered to. None could be found to take it in.

The final deſtruction of Mahometaniſm throughout the world, and the entire overthrow of Romiſh Idolatry, will be the ſubject of farther animadverſions.

The Author begs leave to recommend to the Readers of public papers, to advert to the awful providence in all places, and compare them with Scripture.

He takes the liberty of propoſing to the ſerious of all denominations, to unite in ſetting forth a Religious Weekly Paper, where low, and trifling articles are omitted, with whatever is prophane, immodeſt, or tending to defame.

Such a publication as communicates what is uſeful, of every kind, promotes general information, ſets forth daily the incidents of human life, opens the theatre of providence, aſſiſts the public with judicious reflections, inſerts topics that inform whilſt they entertain:—uſeful in the preſent generation, and worth tranſmitting to poſterity.

Not to eſpouſe any particular ſect,—to controvert with one no more than another,—to be adverſaries to nothing but *Idolatry*, *Perſecution*, adding *Commandments to Scripture*, *Arianiſm*, *Antinomianiſm*, *Deiſm*, or the refined *Infidelity* that denies the ATONEMENT for Sin.

Such a plan muſt be univerſally agreeable to all but the empty, and undiſcerning, — ſuitable to profeſſors of every denomination worthy the name of Chriſtians.

LETTER I.

To the RUSSIAN NATION, *their* Monarch, Army, Fleet, *and* Embaſſadors, *wherever they are:----wiſhing peace, divine grace in this life, and glory in the world to come!*

SUFFER me to explain to you the Scriptures of truth for your comfort, and ſucceſs in time of danger.

The Sacred Oracles contain all truth that belongs to this, and the life to come. They are written for our inſtruction in righteouſneſs, the knowledge of what we are to expect in eternity, and the diſcovery of future events in TIME,—ſuch as concern the kingdom of CHRIST on earth.

It is becauſe the Divine Oracles ſpeak concerning your nation accompliſhing certain great deſigns of Providence, that you are thus addreſſed. Light into the Sacred Word, and all proſperity attend you! May you read, and underſtand to your ſucceſs now, and your reward in the life without end!

The Prophecy of *Daniel* foretells the deſtruction of the *Ottoman Empire* by invaſions from the *Eaſt* and *North:* Therefore, his overthrow is CERTAIN. (Dan. xi. 44, 45.)

The King to be deſtoyed, will *poſſeſs the glorious holy mountain*, the city of *Jeruſalem:* Therefore, he is the GRAND SIGNIOR. His trouble from the *North*, is from *Ruſſia*, if from none beſides: From the *Eaſt*, it is *Perſia*, *Georgia*, the *Black Sea*, or other parts lying eaſt of *Turkey*. Probably, theſe will all unite with you againſt him.

The Scripture cannot fail. And by ſigns the Scripture gives, the time of this great event is near at hand. We humbly truſt the Almighty is going now to accompliſh his deſign.

The final overthrow of Mahometaniſm throughout the world, is treated of by *Ezekiel*, and will follow the firſt deſtruction of it in *Turkey*. *He ſhall come to his end*, ſaith *Daniel*, *and none ſhall help him:* This GRAND ANTICHRIST, and enemy of the Chriſtian faith, ſhall fall by forces from the *Eaſt*, and *North*, and none be able to deliver him. Be all honour and deepeſt adoration to GOD that maketh known his will! and the ſtrength of his right hand be with the inſtruments that fulfil his word!

Cloſe at the heels of this firſt overthrow of Mahometan Impoſture, will follow the final deſtruction of *Chriſtian Idolatry*. Theſe two great Antichriſts, the *Pope*, and *Mahomet*, roſe nearly together, and will each fall about the ſame time. For an opening into this truth, look to the ſtate of *both* for theſe fifteen years paſt. The *Turks* have been cruſhed by *plague*, and *famine*. The *Perſians*, diſtracted by inteſtine broils. *Popery* has been crumbling by the deſtruction of *Jeſuits*, *Monaſteries*, and nipping of the eccleſiaſtic Authority. Earthquakes have ſhattered both Mahometans, and Papiſts. Surely the hand of Heaven is ſtretched out againſt them!

Let me now call upon you, as the miniſters of GOD's righteous vengeance:—While ye receive help

againſt your enemies, and fulfil the divine appointment, ſee above all things, that you ſhew mercy. SPARE THE HUMAN BLOOD. Elſe expect to blaſt your victory, and turn the hand that fights for, to be againſt you.

May you be guided by light divine, and bleſſed with the knowledge of all Scripture truth! May your church and nation be truly taught of GOD! May you rightly diſcern, and expel from your worſhip all that is not found in the WRITTEN WORD! And forſaking *human inventions*, *traditions of men*, and whatever is ADDED to Scripture, the great evil which has deplorably infected all denominations, even proteſtants alſo,—may you receive none but CHRIST as Ruler over your conſcience: And draw nigh to GOD through him, as the ONE ONLY *Mediator!* Thus ſhall you become ſhining lights to all men, and receive from JESUS, the MOST HIGH and ETERNAL GOD, grace to be truly regenerate, and meet for glory.

By the records of the laſt century, we find, that when the hand of Heaven fought then againſt the Turkiſh Empire, inſtead of repenting of their ſins, and forſaking their lying deluſions, they had recourſe to *pilgrimages*, *proceſſions*, *ſacrifices of human blood*, and ſetting forth as a ſacred relic, the urn of the moſt deteſtable of men, and falſeſt of falſe prophets, —the lewd impoſtor, *Mahomet*. Amongſt other heathen, and infernal rites, to procure the favour of the moſt juſt GOD, they cut the throats of an hundred and twenty-five Jews, ſtain'd their garments in their blood, and cut their own fleſh with knives.

It has been ſuppoſed by ſome, they would tranſact the ſame over again. If they do, let them firſt prevail with The "*moſt Chriſtian enemy to peace*,"—the great TYRANT and INCENDIARY of *Verſailles*, to take his place with them. With the reſt ſhould go the *Pope*,

his STILL beloved *Jesuits*, the *Holy Inquisition*, and all *Idolaters* throughout the Papal See, to join in the sacrifice to *Moloch*. These might all compare notes at *Mecca*; and either *exchange* religions, or *unite*, and make ONE Antichrist out of *Two*.

But to return. The numerous and enormous crimes of your enemies, and their long rejection of the only LORD and Saviour, seem to have filled up the measure of their sin, and brought down the vengeance of a long suffering GOD upon their heads. Hereby your way is prepared for victory, and to be come the just scourge of a righteous GOD upon a lewd, and bloody people, and put a lasting end to the blasphemy of a most abandon'd Impostor. The aid of the Almighty be with you!

Not that we seek their hurt, but the extirpation of their error. We wish not evil to them, but the destruction of that power which opposes the *Mystery of God being fulfilled*. The strength of Satan lies much in *Rome*, and *Constantinople*. Both must be forced to give place before *the Kingdoms of this world become the Kingdom of CHRIST, and the earth be covered with the knowledge of God*, according to the Prophecies. To desire this, is only to chuse the will of GOD. No pride, or party: not the Bigot or Enthusiast; but the voice of Scripture, the cry of them that are with JESUS, "*how long, O Lord!*" (Rev. vi. 10.) The triumphant hallelujah in Heaven, "*The LORD God omnipotent reigneth!*" ch. xix. 6.) "*Give glory, for the hour of his judgment is come!*" (ch. xiv. 7.)

But again,—while you extend your victories, be as unbounded in tender compassion. Consider your enemies as the human race, redeemed by the blood of CHRIST. Spare life, even in BATTLE. Teach them faith in him that died for them. But if you shed needless blood, he that is now for you, may set

his face againſt you, and appoint others in your ſtead to accompliſh his word. It was ſo with *Iſraël* of old. *The LORD having ſaved the people out of Egypt, afterwards deſtroyed them that believed not.* He that ſwore to *Abraham* and his *ſeed*, to give them ALL the country from *Egypt*, to *Euphrates*, called back his promiſe, and performed but PART of the covenant. Neither would he to the laſt, drive out *all* the nations, as he promiſed; but left them poſſeſſions in the land, whoſe extent fell ſo ſhort of what was firſt deſigned. *Becauſe this people*, ſaid GOD, *hath tranſgreſſed my covenant, I will not henceforth drive out any from before them.*

May all that behold our dire commotions at home; all that hear of wars, and rumours of wars abroad, raiſe their thoughts above *ſecond cauſes*, the *outward* ſprings of trouble, viſible to human eyes,—and know there is a *ſecret* evil, a guilt that cannot go unpuniſhed! We have broken the law of Heaven, deſpiſed the calls of mercy, and blaſphemed GOD's beloved Son. This muſt all meet its threatned vengeance throughout the world, in the time appointed. And even now, JEHOVAH *cometh out of his holy place to puniſh the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity:* And at laſt, to end *theſe* calamities, with ſummoning all nations to his bar, there to receive a juſt ſentence for whatever each has done. (Dan. xii. 1—3.)

May all that hear, prepare for what is coming! Let all that fear GOD be found upon their *watch*, in fervent prayer, that through diſtreſs of nations the kingdom of JESUS may come, and his power be eſtabliſhed over all the earth!

Farewell. Victory be yours, peace with GOD, and that purity of heart and life, without which faith, religion, and hope of Heaven, is but vain!

April 7, 1770.

POST

POSTSCRIPT.

To his Excellency the PRUSSIAN Embaſſador.

YOUR Court having engaged in the defence of the *Ruſſians*, againſt the *Turks*, who have madly ruſhed into battle to their own deſtruction, and began war for no other cauſe, but that the *great bloodthirſty* FRENCHMAN hoped to ſerve himſelf by the ruin of others: And the deſign of this being to abet the juſt cauſe you eſpouſe, it is addreſſed to you, as the moſt likely means of influencing *them*, and procuring farther help againſt the adverſary, from all that believe, and truſt in GOD.

The former* was to ſhew what had BLASTED their victory: This, to ANIMATE, and RECOVER.

July 5, 1770.

* The Second Letter was publiſhed before the firſt.

LETTER II.

To any RUSSIAN CONSUL, *or other* Great Perſon, *the following is offered in Behalf of the* RUSSIAN Intereſt.

ACcording to the Prophecy of *Daniel*, the GRAND SIGNIOR is to *come to his end, and none ſhall help him.* (Dan. xi. 44, 45.) From other Scriptures, we conclude, the time is near at hand. From late providences, that have brought the Ottoman Empire to the brink of ruin, we preſume the final overthrow of this grand ANTICHRIST, and ENEMY OF GOD, is now begun. As he that ruleth over all hath ſeen meet to begin this great deſign by *your nation*, ſurely *you* are appointed no ſmall ſhare in its final completion. Therefore, your conqueſt is certain. None can deliver him out of your hand.

Wherefore then, is this late turn of affairs, this unexpected change in the *Morea*, which has well nigh undone all you have been doing? An enemy almoſt conquered, an army flying before you; yet, with eaſe turn back, purſue their purſuers, and trample down forces that ſeemed to have vanquiſhed them!

Whatever Atheiſts think, or ſay of *fortune, wiſdom, valour*, or *ſecond cauſes* of any kind; whether we know or know not, own or will not own, ſtill it is *The LORD that reigneth*; and *whatſoever he will, he doth in heaven and earth.* He ſees, and he decides all things as pleaſeth himſelf. *The race is not to the ſwift, nor the battle to the ſtrong.* He looks down from above, makes weakneſs become ſtrength, confounds the beſt concerted meaſures, ſurpriſes us with events unthought of, and diſappoints human deſigns.

Let then, my words be acceptable. Know you have offended him, *whoſe defence was your ſhield, and who covered your heaa in the day of battle.* The Greeks,

delivered

delivered from their iron yoke, were not content with victory, but thirſted for blood: Inſtead of looking up for continued help, ſuppoſed their own arm ſufficient, and bent their thoughts on *revenge*, for injuries received before they were born! Thus they ſtopped up their own way, loſt what they had gain'd, blaſted the proſpect of future ſucceſs, and MAY have put a final end to the gracious deſigns of providence, who might otherwiſe, have wrought their entire deliverance.

But if GOD will yet be intreated—hearken, and let me plead. It is for GOD, for YOU, I ſtrive—for victory againſt the blaſphemy of a ſhameful impoſtor: Yet, I plead for humanity. Spare the effuſion of human blood. Treat your captives with compaſſion. Inſtruct them in the Chriſtian Faith. Put away your own Idolatry and Superſtition. Embrace that Religion *only* which is founded on SACRED WRIT. Let none be Lord of your Conſcience, but CHRIST, the moſt high GOD. So ſhall it be well with you in this, and the world to come.

Canterbury, June 19, 1770. C. P.

A D D E N D A.

WE now ſtand with wonder, and behold the ſudden alteration. The Greeks have borne their puniſhment: Such as offended are cut off: In a moment they prevail as at firſt. He that ſuccoured them in the beginning, *ſcatters* again *the people that delight in war.*

Surely *he will avenge him of his enemies.* He will revive our hope, that the time is near for *all the ends of the earth to ſee the ſalvation of* GOD.

In affliction there is always one way to eſcape. If we return to GOD before it be too late, e'er repentance is hid from his eyes, he averts the threatning cloud, and turns aſide the uplifted ſtroke of his own indignation. According *as we fear, ſo is his diſpleaſure.*

Auguſt 4, 1770.